

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW HARE (*LEPUS ARCTICUS*) FROM NORTHERN CANADA

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A small series of hares from Prince Patrick Island in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago reveals the presence there of an undescribed race of *Lepus arcticus*. I take pleasure in naming it in honor of the late Charles J. Hubbard, former Chief of the Arctic Section, U. S. Weather Bureau, whose whole-hearted cooperation and interest made possible extensive biological studies and collections in Arctic America. For the loan of comparative material I am grateful to the National Museum of Canada.

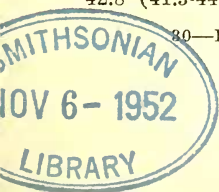
Lepus arcticus hubbardi, subsp. nov.

Type.—U. S. National Museum No. 290933; adult male, skin and skull; collected 11 June 1949, by Charles O. Handley, Jr., at 350 feet elevation, near Cherie Bay, 5 miles NE of Mould Bay Station, Prince Patrick Island, District of Franklin, Northwest Territories, Canada (76° 20' N. lat., 119° 08' W. long.); collector's No. 1283.

Distribution.—Known only from Prince Patrick Island, Northwest Territories, Canada; probably inhabits other islands to the east and northeast. Zonal range, Arctic.

Description.—Adult summer pelage: Predominantly white in most specimens; tip of ear black; posterior inner and anterior outer surfaces of ear pinkish-buff, remainder of inner and outer surfaces and narrow subterminal band white; nose, cheeks, and top of head pale pinkish-buff; other parts of body, feet, legs, and tail pure white, or with a sprinkling of gray guard hairs on upper back, sides, and throat. Adult winter pelage: Entirely white, except for black on tips of ears. Juvenal summer pelage: Top of head and ears yellowish-brown; ears black-tipped; remainder of body, legs, and feet pale pinkish-gray, lighter than head and ears; tail white. Size large; tail long. Skull large; premaxillae greatly elongated; first upper incisors long and with a large radius of curvature; nasals long and wide; maxillary molars large and tooth row long.

Measurements.—Eight adults, including type, from vicinity of type locality (measurements taken as outlined by Howell, Jour. Mammalogy 17: 318, 1936; all in millimeters, averages followed by extremes): Total length, 626 (596-656); tail vertebrae, 100 (94-107); hind foot, 158 (155-170); ear from notch, 88 (85-92); greatest length of skull, 110.7 (108.4-113.0); basilar length, 80.6 (78.2-82.6); diagonal length of nasals, 42.8 (41.3-44.5); greatest width of nasals, 22.2 (20.3-24.5); depth of



rostrum, 25.3 (23.9-27.1); cranial breadth, 35.6 (34.4-36.7); zygomatic breadth, 51.1 (49.4-52.5); maxillary tooth row, 20.2 (19.0-21.0).

Comparisons.—*Lepus arcticus hubbardi* is the largest and most prognathous of all the Eastern American Arctic hares. It is closely related to *L. a. monstabilis*, which it resembles in most respects. However, *hubbardi* averages less white in summer pelage, it is larger and longer-tailed, its skull averages slightly larger in all dimensions (but disproportionately larger in nasals and molars), and its incisors have a greater radius of curvature. The first upper incisor of *hubbardi* forms the arc of a circle the radius of which averages 21.6 mm.; the corresponding measurement for *monstabilis* is 19.3 mm. The new subspecies is quite different from *L. a. andersoni*, which, though heavier in body and skull, is smaller in most linear dimensions, is much less prognathous (radius of curvature of upper incisor 13.9 mm.), and is dark gray rather than white or whitish in summer pelage.

Specimens examined.—Vicinity of Mould Bay, Prince Patrick Island, N. W. T., Canada, 12 (Nat. Mus. Canada, 3; U. S. Nat. Mus., 9).